

Message Text

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INFO USCINCSO

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 2214

USCINCSO FOR POLAD.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AR.

SUBJECT: BANK STRIKE STILL UNRESOLVED.

REF: BA-1988.

SUMMARY: NATIONAL BANK EMPLOYEES' STRIKE IN SUPPORT OF REINSTATEMENT OF DISCHARGED WORKERS CONTINUES DESPITE MINLABOR AND MININTERIOR FINDINGS THAT STRIKE IS ILLEGAL. ECONOMIC STRIKES AT MILITARY CONTROLLED INDUSTRIES SETTLED WITH WORKERS RECEIVING SUBSTANTIAL WAGE INCREASES.END SUMMARY.

1. NATIONAL BANK EMPLOYEES ARE STILL MAINTAINING SIT-DOWN STRIKE TO PROTEST DISCHARGE OF 58 EMPLOYEES UNDER PROVISION OF LAW OF DISPENSATION.

BOTH MINLABOR AND MININTERIOR HAVE DECLARED STRIKE ILLEGAL, AND BANK PRESIDENT HAS THREATENED TO DISCHARGE STRIKERS AND CALL ON FEDERAL POLICE TO RESTORE ORDER. NATIONAL BANK UNION ALSO OPPOSES STRIKE, WHICH IS DAMAGED BY AD HOC GROUP COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF LEFTIST PERONIST LABOR YOUTH (JTP), COMMUNITISTS, AND SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (PST) ADHERENTS. PST HEAD, EX-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JUAN CARLOS CORAL, HAS BEEN

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SENTENCED TO 15 DAY JANIL TERM FOLLOWING HIS ARREST MARCH 25

WHILE IN BANK DECLARING HIS SOLIDARITY WITH STRIKER. STRIKERS PLAN DEMONSTRATION AT NATIONAL CONGRESS EVENING MARCH 27. CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO EXTEND LIFE OF LAW OF DISPENSATION FROM MARCH 31 TO DEC 31 HAS BEEN DELAYED AS SENATE APPARENTLY UNABLE TO OBTAIN TWO-THIRDS VOTE NECESSARY TO CONSIDER IT IMMEDIATELY. EXTENSION, WITH POSSIBLE REVISIONS, IS EXPECTED IN EARLY APRIL.

2. IN OTHER LABOR DISPUTES, TWO FABRICACIONES MILITARES UNIONS SETTLED ELEVEN-DAY OLD STRIKE BY OBTAINING HEALTHY WAGE INCREASE. THE WORKERS' MINIMUM SALARY WAS RAISED FROM M\$N 93.000 TO M\$N 133.000 (U\$S 93 TO U\$S 133), AND OTHER WAGE WERE RAISED PROPORTIONALLY. THE FIGURES HIGHLIGHT FACT THAT MANY FIRMS, EITHER THROUGH EVASION OR BECAUSE OF SHORTENED WORK WEEK, ARE NOT PAING LEGAL MINIMUM WAGE OF M\$N 100.000 MONTHLY. IN SHORTER DURATION STRIKE, THE ROAD WORKERS UNION (FPVN) HELD 24-HOUR WORK STOPPAGE MARCH 26 TO PROTEST POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION OF LAW OF DISPENSATION, AND GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION OF UNION-CONTROLLED SOCIAL WORKS PROGRAM. ALSO, MENDOZA PROVINCIAL TEACHERS HELD 24-HOUR WORK STOPPAGE MARCH 26 TO SUPPORT DEMAND FOR HIGHER SALARIES.

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